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grow together from the same crevices of rock, they respond to rain with remarkable quickness. In the dry season when everything else is seemingly dead, if a rain should occur, their coiled fronds quickly become bright green, and well expanded, though perhaps curled again into little balls within a few days.

EDWARD S. BURGESS,
Secretary.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 1902

The meeting was held at 3:30 P. M., at the New York Botanical Garden ; Dr. H. H. Rusby in the chair.

Dr. MacDougal spoke on some examples of propagation by bulbils. Two kinds of bulbils were spoken of, namely, those which morphologically are stems, and those which morphologically are roots. He exhibited specimens of *Dioscorea villosa* which bore in the axils of the leaves large bodies described as bulbils of the first sort, and *Ranunculus Ficaria* and *Globba Schomburgkii* which had similarly placed bodies, much smaller, however, and morphologically roots. In any case the bulbils reproduce the plant by germinating after falling to the ground. Drawings of *Lysimachia terrestris* were shown that represented the changes effected in the habit of the plant brought about by being grown in water.

A specimen of the so-called "wood-rose" of Guatemala was also exhibited by Dr. MacDougal. This curious malformation is a hypertrophy of a branch of some Leguminous tree or shrub and is caused by an unknown species of *Loranthus*.

Dr. N. L. Britton made remarks on the plant conditions and the general plant formations of the island of St. Kitts, British West Indies.

The meeting then adjourned and the members of the Club under Dr. Britton's guidance visited the greenhouses and examined some of the plants that have recently been brought by the Botanical Garden from St. Kitts.

W. A. CANNON,
Secretary pro tem.

NEWS ITEMS

Professor J. C. Arthur, of Purdue University, Lafayette, Indiana, is spending a month at the New York Botanical Garden.

Mr. Percy Wilson, museum aid at the New York Botanical Garden, left New York on January 3 for Honduras, where he expects to devote several weeks to making collections.

Dr. Tracy Elliot Hazen has been appointed tutor in botany in Barnard College, succeeding Miss Louise B. Dunn, whose recent death is elsewhere noted in this number of *TORREYA*.

Dr. John Hendley Barnhart, of Tarrytown, N. Y., has been elected editor-in-chief of the publications of the Torrey Botanical Club, succeeding Professor Underwood, who has resigned on account of prolonged absence from the country.

Mr. C. G. Pringle, keeper of the herbarium of the University of Vermont, who has recently returned from a successful season in Mexico, left on January 8 for Cienfuegos, Cuba, to spend several weeks in making botanical collections and in aiding some experiments in plant-breeding.

Professor L. M. Underwood, of Columbia University, has gone to the West Indies to engage in six months' study of the tropical American ferns. He will be in Jamaica two separate periods of six weeks or more with about the same length of time in eastern Cuba, and at a later date a short period in Dominica. He expects to be absent from the country until September.

The eighth annual winter meeting of the Vermont Botanical Club was held at Burlington, January 16 and 17. The annual address was by Mr. Clifton D. Howe, of the University of Chicago, on "Some Results of Deforestation in Vermont." "Vermont Violets," by President Ezra Brainerd, of Middlebury College; "The Pollution of Water Supplies by Algae," by Dr. G. T. Moore, of the Bureau of Plant Industry, Washington, and "The Thelephorae of Vermont," by Professor E. A. Burt, of Middlebury College, were among the titles of the twenty-one other papers presented.

Mr. K. Yendo in an interesting paper on the "Uses of Marine Algae in Japan," published in Vol. I. of *Postelsia*, the Year Book of the Minnesota Seaside Station, gives some surprising statistics relative to the export of certain dried kelps (species of *Laminaria*) intended chiefly for the markets of China. In 1894, 35,851,245

pounds of "leaf *Laminaria*," and 5,999,134 pounds of "cut *Laminaria*," representing a value of over 600,000 yen were exported. These Japanese Laminarias, mostly of two species, are used as food. The export of agar-agar during the same year amounted to 1,298,422 pounds, valued at nearly 500,000 yen.

The Carnegie Institution has appropriated \$8,000 for the fiscal year 1902-'03 to be used in the establishment and maintenance of a desert botanical laboratory. Dr. D. T. MacDougal, of the New York Botanical Garden, and Mr. Frederick V. Coville, of the Bureau of Plant Industry, U. S. Department of Agriculture, constitute the advisory board in relation to the project, and will start on a tour of the Southwest on January 24 to select a site for the laboratory, and to outline other regions to which investigations might profitably be extended. Dr. W. A. Cannon (A B. and A.M., Stanford University, 1899 and 1900; Ph.D., Columbia University, 1902) has been chosen as resident investigator.

The meetings in connection with the American Association for the Advancement of Science in Washington during Convocation Week brought together more botanists than have before been in attendance at any series of public meetings in America. About eighty papers on botanical subjects were presented in addition to half as many more on applied phases of the subject. The three presidential addresses were as follows: Dr. J. C. Arthur before the Botanical Society of America on "Problems in the Study of Plant Rusts"; Dr. D. H. Campbell before Section G, on "The Origin of Terrestrial Plants"; Professor V. M. Spalding before the Society for Plant Morphology and Physiology on "The Rise of Ecology." The Botanical Society of America announced the following grants: To Dr. J. C. Arthur to aid in the prosecution of investigations on the plant rusts, \$90.00; to Dr. D. S. Johnson to enable him to continue his work on the endosperm and seed of the Piperaceae and Chloranthaceae, \$200.00; to Dr. Arthur Hollick to meet expenses of continuation of investigation of the fossil flora of the Atlantic coastal plain, \$150.00.